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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON OAS AND NICARAGUA, JUNE 21, 2005

1. Op-ed in San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" on 6/21, titled "OAS in Nicaragua." "The Secretary General of the OAS, Jose Miguel Insulza, returned to Washington from Managua without being able to do anything special to resolve the conflict between the executive and the judicial branches in Nicaragua. This conflict threatens to become a crisis of governability."

"For the OAS this is a very difficult problem because, in the first place, it is very clear that none of the parties in question is truly ready for dialogue. This is precisely what Secretary General Insulza witnessed when he personally sought to remedy the situation by promoting a dialogue where both sides compromise and find common ground."

".it is the internal forces within Nicaraguan society that must face the situation, as is already beginning to happen with the popular protests that demand a change in attitude from the protagonists of the conflict."

"Without a doubt, the mobilization of civil society, of interest and pressure groups, and the adequate participation of the media, will be the determining factors in the resolution of this crisis, in which with wise diplomacy and political ability, the OAS might then play a significant role."

2. On 06/21 the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an editorial entitled "Advancing the Elections."

"It looks like the opposition in Nicaragua, which has the President trapped, will get its way. Mr. Enrique just announced that he would be open to advancing the elections. He announced this after the Secretary General of the OAS failed at his attempt to establish dialogue between the opposing parties, coming up against irreconcilable and even infantile differences."

"The situation is very tense, with Mr. Enrique insisting that the constitutional reforms must be put to a referendum, since the Central American Court of Justice ruled that they are not valid. And the opposition insists that the reforms, which take public agencies away from the control of the executive, are nonnegotiable."

"The members of congress in Honduras, instead of wasting energy on so many electoral reforms which only take us backwards, should start thinking about how to introduce a constitutional article that allows for the advancement of elections at any moment so that the country has a way out, in case it gets caught in a bog like those in Ecuador, Bolivia and Nicaragua. In these three countries, as well as in Haiti and Peru, the advancement of elections seems to be the only option for getting out of the jam in which they find themselves."

3. On 06/21 the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an editorial entitled "Danger!" "In Spanish-speaking America, the political situation is a mess. If it is true that military coups are no longer necessary for the overthrow of governments, things have gotten even simpler because all that is needed now is massive unrest, consistent and prolonged, to do away with any government. Lately, this is how governments have been falling, creating climates of institutional disorder and establishing a precedent that leads to a wave of social instability."

"In Central America we have been enjoying a degree of stability after the continuous coups d'etat of the past, that have been substituted with democratic elections. It's for this reason that we observe with deep worry what is occurring in Nicaragua, where a popularly elected president maintains a precarious balance in order to stay in power. Meanwhile, the opposition party represented by the old Sandinista revolutionaries appointed to the Sandinista National Liberation Front astutely align with the liberals in order to regain power."

"Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary of the OAS, alarmed by the

dangerous situation in Nicaragua, has arrived in the country as a mediator, although the situation is apparently irreversible since the plans, disguised in legalities, are going forward."

"Perhaps the arrival of the Sandinistas to power will not mean much to Central America, since communism has ceased to exist. But it will be welcomed by Venezuela and Cuba, among others. If Insulza fails in his efforts, the Americans will have a problem at their doorstep. And all doors will be closed to President Bolaos, except seeking political asylum at the United States Embassy."

Palmer